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AMEMBASSY BEIJING

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 250796

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, MOPS, UN, RW

SUBJECT: TALKING POINTS FOR MEETING WITH FRENCH ON RWANDA

REF: (A) USUN NEW YORK 003934

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

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2. THE USG SUPPORTS THE PEACE PROCESS IN RWANDA BUT, AT PRESENT, THERE IS NO CONSENSUS WITHIN THE INTERAGENCY COMMUNITY ON THE ISSUE OF SUPPORT FOR A UN-LED NEUTRAL INTERNATIONAL FORCE (NIF), OR THE APPROPRIATE SIZE OR SCOPE OF SUCH A FORCE. WE HAVE DECIDED TO AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF THE UN RECONNAISSANCE MISSION WHICH SHOULD CLARIFY THE ISSUES AND FACILITATE A FINAL DECISION. IN THE MEANTIME, WE WANT TO KEEP OUR OPTIONS OPEN AND, IN PARTICULAR WE DO NOT WANT TO RULE OUT INVOLVEMENT BY THE OAU OR ITS NMOG FORCES.

3. AS REQUESTED IN REFTTEL, POST MAY USE FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS IN THE PLANNED AUGUST 17 MEETING WITH FRENCH POLCOUNS ON RWANDA:

-- THE U.S. UNDERSTANDS THE NEED FOR A RAPID DECISION ON DEPLOYMENT OF A NEUTRAL INTERNATIONAL FORCE TO HELP IMPLEMENT THE PEACE ACCORDS. WE WELCOME THE PLANNED

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DESPATCH OF A UN RECONNAISSANCE TEAM, WHICH SHOULD GREATLY FACILITATE FINAL DECISION ON THIS CRUCIAL ISSUE.

-- WE ARE ACTIVELY DISCUSSING THE NIF WITHIN OUR GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT A FINAL DECISION ON THIS ISSUE CANNOT BE MADE UNTIL THE RECONNAISSANCE TEAM HAS COMPLETED ITS REPORT.

-- THE U.S. STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE PEACE PROCESS IN RWANDA, BUT LIKE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, WE WANT TO ENSURE THAT SCARCE RESOURCES ARE USED WISELY AND THAT, BEFORE ANY PEACEKEEPING FORCE IS AGREED TO, THE MISSION IS CLEARLY DEFINED.

-- THE U.S. BELIEVES THAT THE OAU COULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN HELPING RWANDA IMPLEMENT THE PEACE ACCORDS. THE OAU HAS ALREADY CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO THE PEACE PROCESS THROUGH ITS INVOLVEMENT IN THE ARUSHA TALKS AND THROUGH DEPLOYMENT OF THE NMOG. WE BELIEVE THAT RWANDA PRESENTS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP THE OAU'S REGIONAL PEACEKEEPING CAPABILITIES.

-- THE U.S. STRONGLY SUPPORTS EFFORTS TO ENHANCE THE PEACEKEEPING CAPABILITIES OF REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. WE

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ARE PLEASED WITH THE GROWING ROLE THAT AFRICAN REGIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS ARE PLAYING IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION,
PARTICULARLY ECOMOG IN LIBERIA.
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